EASTERN PARTNERSHIP TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TRUST FUND

ABOUT THE TRUST FUND

The Eastern Partnership Technical Assistance Trust Fund (EPTATF) is a multi-donor, multi-sector trust fund, established by the European Investment Bank (EIB) in December 2010. Currently managed by EIB Global, the Bank's development arm, the trust fund provides technical assistance and advisory support to public and private counterparts in the Eastern Partnership countries to enhance the development impact of EIB lending operations and bring the beneficiary countries onto the path of prosperity.

EPTATF enables EIB Global to mobilise technical assistance resources quickly and reliably, and helps promoters, national authorities and financial intermediaries to improve project identification, assessment methods and financial and risk management. With its holistic technical assistance offer, the trust fund draws on the Bank's expertise and resources, which are custom fitted to local needs.

The trust fund fills critical gaps for the development and implementation of investment projects by providing financing for:

- pre-feasibility, feasibility, and other preliminary studies for investment projects;
- institutional and legal assessments;
- environmental and social impact assessments in accordance with the highest EU standards;
- project management and/or promoter support throughout the project implementation process;
- studies to identify investment needs and priorities before a project;
- capacity building, such as skill development and consultancy assistance throughout a project, including at an institutional level, to improve the ability of counterparts to manage complex projects in an autonomous way in the future.

Strategic priorities (2021-2027)

The trust fund's long-term objectives build on the European Commission's Eastern Partnership policy beyond 2020 and on the EIB's expertise. The priorities are:

- resilient, sustainable and integrated economies;
- environmental and climate resilience;
- digital transformation.



€50 MILLION in donor funds contributed

42 EPTATF-supported technical assistance operations

€9.9 BILLION*

Total investment mobilised as of the end of 2022 in association with EPTATF technical assistance operations

MORE THAN THREE-QUARTERS

of EPTATF grants funding technical assistance supported existing or prospective EIB Global projects

*This sum includes €5.2 billion from partner institutions and €4.7 billion in EIB lending. The EIB aims to crowd in other investors and typically only covers up to 50% of a project's total cost.

Of the five Eastern Partnership countries supported through the trust fund, **Ukraine** has received the largest share of EPTATF grants, with 14 grant operations approved since the trust fund was founded, totalling €17.9 million. This accounts for 47% of total approvals as of the end of 2022 (see page EP 4).

The immediate and long-term needs of the Eastern Partnership countries supported by EPTATF are greater than ever in today's context of Russia's war in Ukraine and the resulting economic and energy crises. In addition, addressing climate change challenges remains a top priority.

It is essential to continue to replenish the trust fund, which remains the EIB's single vehicle to channel donor funds for technical assistance into the Eastern Partnership countries.

EXPECTED IMPACT

Since 2008, the Eastern Partnership Technical Assistance Trust Fund has improved thousands of lives thanks to investments in vital infrastructure or those supporting the businesses that make up the economic fabric of the Eastern Partnership countries. For example, the trust fund has supported the creation of the Fruit Garden of Moldova, which enables farmers to modernise their equipment and improve crop efficiency.

Projects supported by the fund are also expected to provide **safe drinking water for 510 000 people and save 136 000 MWh per year** thanks to the implementation of energy-efficient measures.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS SUPPORTED















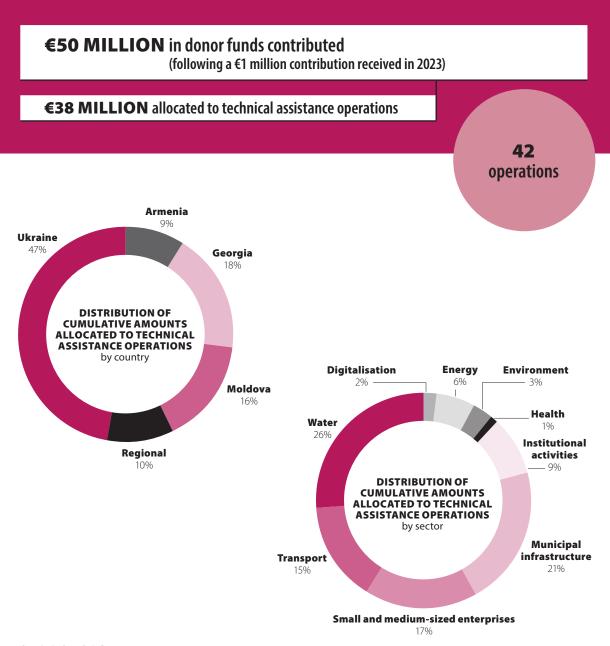




PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- The Eastern Partnership Technical Assistance Trust Fund provided a €498 000 grant to the government of Moldova to **support the design and planning of two new regional hospitals**, one in Cahul, in the counrty's south, and one in Bălţi, in the north. Once completed, the Cahul hospital will make modern healthcare services, including chemotherapy which is currently unavailable to patients in the region, accessible to more than 120 000 people. The new hospital will also increase the overall resilience of the public health sector in Moldova, which has been strained due to the coronavirus pandemic and the war in Ukraine.
- Two grants from the Eastern Partnership Technical Assistance Trust Fund are **boosting climate action investment in Georgia**. The EIB is helping the Bank of Georgia to put together a climate finance strategy that will enable it to consider the risks posed by climate change to its clients and identify new business opportunities. Another grant will enable Georgia's TBC Bank to improve its offer to small businesses for loans targeting climate action projects. Among other things, the grant will increase TBC Bank's know-how in sustainable financing and enable it to promote the advantages of climate action lending to current and potential clients.
- The trust fund **supported the Ukrainian government** with the preparation and implementation of three technical assistance operations approved in 2014, 2019 and 2022 under the Ukraine Municipal Infrastructure Programme. These grants help municipalities modernise their infrastructure in sectors such as energy efficiency, water supply and solid waste management. For example, the projects include upgrading the district heating and energy efficiency of public buildings, and equipping cities with low-consumption street lighting, making them more secure and greener. The trust fund's resources helped keep the project going in 2022, despite the war in Ukraine.
- After Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula and occupied two large parts of eastern Ukraine in 2014, the Eastern Partnership Technical Assistance Trust Fund approved a €3 million technical assistance operation to support the implementation of a €200 million EIB loan for the **Early Recovery Programme**, which assists people who fled the conflict, and the towns that took them in. As part of this programme, more than 90 hospitals, medical facilities and a large number of educational sites in eastern Ukraine have been repaired, insulated or refurbished to modern standards. Many of the sites have since been damaged again but we stand ready to support their reconstruction together with our Ukrainian partners.

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TRUST FUND AT A GLANCE



OUR DONORS

Since its inception, the trust fund has been receiving contributions from the following donors:

AUSTRIA	GERMANY	POLAND
CZECH REPUBLIC	LATVIA	SWEDEN
FRANCE	LITHUANIA	UNITED KINGDOM